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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/759,501	01/16/2004	Tomomi Takata	CFA00028US	7675
34904 7590 05/12/2009 CANON U.S.A. INC. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY DIVISION 15975 ALTON PARKWAY IRVINE, CA 92618-3731				
EXAMINER CHIN, RICKY				
ART UNIT 2423		PAPER NUMBER		
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/759,501

Applicant(s)

TAKATA ET AL.

Examiner

RICKY CHIN

Art Unit

2423

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 February 2009.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 6, 11, 12 and 17-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 6, 11, 12 and 17-24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB-08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. The Applicant's arguments filed February 25, 2009 have been fully considered but are not persuasive.

With regards to claims 1, 6, 11-12, and 17-18, the applicant argues that Ahmad does not teach or suggest obtaining correlation of previous and subsequent scenes. The examiner respectfully disagrees. Ahmad teaches of integrating an audio clip based on evaluation of the visual recording data (See [0043]) in order to reflect a mood of the visual recording (See [0042]). Hence, since the metadata of the visual images are to be analyzed to determine an event such as a funeral (See [0035] and [0042]), the audio clip is selected based on the correlations of the visual images which would detail the type of event such as a funeral or wedding so that the appropriate mood is portrayed. Moreover, the examiner relies on Hua for the teaching of obtaining correlation of previous and subsequent scenes between which a transition clip is to be inserted and obtaining an impression meant to be given to an audience by the correlation to determine a transition effect as in claim 1 (See analysis of claim 1, in particular, Hua, col.16 lines 17-25 which discloses correlating the two sub-shots and integrating a transition based on similarities of the two sub-shots). Therefore, it would also have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have modified the teachings of Hua of obtaining correlation of previous and subsequent scenes between which a transition clip is to be inserted by which the correlation determines the transition effect to be inserted and to incorporated obtaining an impression meant to be given to an audience as taught

by Ahmad for the mere benefit of better characterizing a transition such that a mood or theme is reflected so that a more fitting presentation is displayed to the user according to the theme/mood desired.

Applicant further argues that the transition effect is not determined based on the correlation included in the visual recording summary. The examiner respectfully disagrees. Ahmad ([0042]-[0045] and [0051]) discloses using transitions that are appropriate for particular beat frequencies that produce particular effects to adjust mood and feel of the visual summary. Thus, since the audio clips are selected by the evaluation of the visual images, and the transition effect is selected to match the beats of the audio clip, it is also then that the transition effect is selected based on the visual image evaluations as discussed above. Moreover, the examiner relies on Hua (See Hua, col.16 lines 17-25 which discloses correlating the two sub-shots and integrating a transition based on similarities of the two sub-shots) for the teaching of the transition effect being determined based on the correlation between two scenes and as detailed in the above argument.

Lastly, applicant argues that Ahmad does not teach of wherein the calculating a suitability ratio is done by comparing the second impression of and the first impression information obtained at the impression obtaining step. The examiner respectfully disagrees. Ahmad (See Ahmad, [0042] and [0051]) discloses of evaluating the type of transition to use for each pair of clips, and designating particular transitions for different effects/moods such as for funerals or parties which is determined from the metadata of the content) as well as calculating a suitability score (See [0036] which discloses

calculating a suitability score according to any of a combination of evaluations of the images). Moreover, the examiner, for further exemplification further relies on Moore for the teaching of an additional information storing unit storing in advance the information indicating an impression meant to be given to an audience by each transition clip (See Moore, col. 8 lines 15-27 which discloses storing categorized sets of transition effects, whereby the categorization might include feeling such as conservative, elegant, funny, flashy, etc.) Therefore, it would have also been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have modified the teachings of the calculating a suitability ratio of Ahmad to incorporate the storing in advance the information indicating the impression meant to be given to the audience by each transition clip and inserting a transition clip based on similarities of the scenes as taught by Hua and Moore for the mere benefit of being able to better characterize a fitting transition for the media content to present to the user such that it suits the users desires of theme and/or mood. For the reasons mentioned above, the rejections are maintained.

With regards to newly added claims 19-24, the claims have been rejected for the reasons set forth below.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the

invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1, 6, 11-12, 17-18, and 19-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hua et al., US 7,127,120 in view of Ahmad, US 2004/0052505, and in further view of Moore, US 7,102,643.

Regarding claims 1, 11 and 12, Hua teaches of an information processing method for editing input data (See [Abstract]), comprising:

an obtaining step of obtaining, from metadata of the data, of two scenes sandwiching a position for a transition clip among all scenes in the data and/or object information indicating objects existing in the two scenes (See col. 2 lines 52-56 which discloses that metadata features are extracted)

correlation obtaining step of obtaining correlation of the two scenes, object information of the two scenes obtained at the obtaining step, from a correlation storage unit storing in advance correlation between each object information (See Hua, col.16 lines 17-25 which discloses correlating the two sub-shots and integrating a transition based on similarities of the two sub-shots; and col.6 lines 50-col. 7 lines 40;col. 9 lines 10-20 which discloses the content selection for analyzing the calculated features of the metadata extraction module which sets the similarity measure thresholds for determining correlations to identify a similarities)

the first impression and/or effect corresponding to the correlation obtained at the correlation obtaining step, from an impression and/or effect storage unit storing, in an associated manner, the correlation between the two scenes sandwiching the transition clip and the impression and/or effect meant to be given to an audience by the transition

clip to be inserted between the two scenes having the correlation (See Hua, col. 16 lines 15-25 and col. 9 lines 10-23 which discloses that the transition used is determined by the similarities of the sub-shots, similarities such as motion intensity. Moreover, the sub-shot motion intensity is directly correlated to the music mood (See Hua, col. 11 lines 25-30 and col. 15 lines 15-30 which discloses that the music mood is matched with the motion intensity according to equations and algorithms in the content selection module/effect storage unit). Thus, by comparing similarities of the motion intensities of the sub-shots, the mood of the sub-shots is also being compared and incorporated into the transition being inserted.

a receiving step of receiving an instruction to specify an arbitrary transition clip (See Hua, col. 16 lines 25-30 which discloses randomly choosing a transition clip)

a transition clip extracting step of extracting at least one transition clip from among a plurality of transition clips stored in advance (See Hua, col. 16 lines 30-55 which discloses extraction of a transition clip from up to a provided fifteen different types)

a determining step of determining the transition clip which is specified at the receiving step as a transition clip to be inserted into the position being sandwiched between the two scenes (See Hua, col. 16 lines 18-50) and

a processing step of adding a transition effect to the data by using the transition clip determined at the determining step (See Hua, col. 16 lines 17-35 which discloses the fusion module for integrating via the determined transition).

Hua does not explicitly teach of where the metadata of the data includes event information indicating a theme of two scenes; a calculating step of calculating a suitability ratio indicating suitability of each transition clip; a decreasing order of suitability ratio calculated at the calculating step; information associated with a transition clip by an additional information storing unit. However, in the same field of endeavor, Ahmad teaches of:

event information indicating a theme of two scenes (See Ahmad, [0035]; [0042]-[0043] which discloses evaluating and extracting metadata such as party/funeral and objects such as cars/people)

an impression and/or effect obtaining step of obtaining first impression effect information indicating an impression and/or an effect meant to be given to an audience by a transition clip to be inserted between two scenes (See Ahmad, [0042]-[0043] and [0051] which discloses producing particular emotional effects and mood/feel),

a calculating step of calculating a suitability ratio indicating suitability of each transition clip stored in advance, as a transition clip to be inserted into the position being sandwiched between the two scenes (See Ahmad, [0036 which discloses calculating a suitability score according to any of a combination of evaluations of the images), by comparing second impression and/or effect storing in advance the information indicating an impression and/or an effect meant to be given to an audience by each transition clip and the first impression and/or effect information obtained at the impression and/or effect obtaining step (See Ahmad, [0042] and [0051] which discloses

evaluating the type of transition to use for each pair of clips, and designating particular transitions for different effects/moods such as for funerals or parties which is determined from the metadata of the content);

a decreasing order of suitability ratio calculated at the calculating step (See Ahmad, [0036] and [0047] which discloses displaying clips in increasing or decreasing order according to the score);

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have modified the teachings of inserting a transition according to similarities of sub-shots as taught by Hua to incorporate where the metadata of the data includes event information indicating a theme of two scenes; an impression and/or effect obtaining step of obtaining first impression information indicating an impression effect meant to be given to an audience by a transition clip; a calculating step of calculating a suitability ratio indicating suitability of each transition clip; a decreasing order of suitability ratio calculated at the calculating step as taught by Ahmad to be able to ascertain visual image characteristics such as events/effects and to be able to automatically create video deemed appropriate having a more professional look and feel (See, Ahmad, [0019] and [0051])

The combination of Hua and Ahmad does not explicitly teach of a displaying step of displaying at least one transition clip extracted at the transition clip extracting step, receiving an instruction to specify a transition clip from the at least one transition clip displayed at the displaying step, and; and of an information associated with a transition

clip by an additional information storing unit. However, in the same field of endeavor, Moore teaches of a displaying step of displaying at least one transition clip extracted at the transition clip extracting step and receiving an instruction to specify a transition clip from the at least one transition clip displayed at the displaying step. (See Moore, Fig.9 (b) and col. 10 lines 35-55 which discloses being able to display and preview transition clips for selection) and of an information associated with a transition clip by an additional information storing unit (See Moore, col. 8 lines 15-27 which discloses storing categorized sets of transition effects, whereby the categorization might include feeling such as conservative, elegant, funny, flashy, etc.)

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have modified the teachings of Hua and Ahmad to incorporate displaying at least one transition clip extracted at the transition clip extracting step , receiving an instruction to specify a transition clip from the at least one transition clip displayed at the displaying step, and of an information associated with a transition clip by an additional information storing unit as taught by Moore to be able to provide an editor the option to preview a transition from among a plurality of transitions before an actual transition to ensure the transition is the one desired as well as to be able to better characterize a transition clip for insertion which better reflects the users interests.

Regarding claims 6, 17, and 18, see analysis of claims 1, 11, and 12. Furthermore, the claims only differ from claims 1, 11, and 12 whereby the transition clip extracting step extracts at least one transition clip, based on the suitability ratio

calculated at the calculating step, which is unsuitable as a transition clip to be inserted (See Ahmad, [0036] and [0047] which discloses a scores for the visual images obtained from evaluations indicating desirability and being able to display the clips in an order based on the score. Thus, any order may be include decreasing order in which the lowest score is displayed. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have modified the teachings of Hua to incorporate extracting at least one transition clip, based on the suitability ratio calculated at the calculating step, which is unsuitable as a transition clip to be inserted as taught by Ahmad to provide further flexibility as to better characterize the editor/viewer preference and desires as to the type of clip insertions made); an error displaying step of displaying an error message (Official Notice is taken by the examiner to note that error message displaying is notoriously well-known in the art and would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modified the teachings of Hua, Ahmad, and Moore to have incorporated an error message if the transition clip is deemed inappropriate such as in a transitional clip having an upbeat mood for a funeral theme as to alert the editor/viewer.); the determining step of determining the transition clip which is specified at the receiving step (See Hua, col. 16 lines 15-30 which discloses random selection of a clip as specified at the receiving step) from the at least one transition clip displayed at the displaying step other than the extracted unsuitable transition clips, as a transition clip to be inserted (See Ahmad [0036] and [0047] which discloses a pre-established number of candidate images selected by highest score. Thus, the lower scores are deemed unsuitable and therefore not displayed after selection. Therefore, it would have been

obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have modified the teachings of Hua and Moore with that of Ahmad to incorporate displaying suitable transitions only as taught by Ahmad to accurately select a desired transition which better characterizes an editor/viewer desires according to pre-determined factors so that clips deemed as inappropriate are not mistakenly selected);

Regarding claims 19-24, the combination teaches all of the claim limitations of claims 1, 6, 11, 12, 17, and 18. The combination further teaches of wherein the additional information storing unit stores in advance the information indicating the impression meant to be given to the audience by each transition clip (See Moore, col. 8 lines 15-27 which discloses storing categorized sets of transition effects, whereby the categorization might include feeling such as conservative, elegant, funny, flashy, etc.) and an intensity of each impression (See Ahmad, [0042]-[0045] and [0051] which discloses using transitions that are appropriate for particular beat frequencies that produce particular effects to adjust mood and feel of the visual summary. Thus, by varying the tempo and beats a coinciding transition is used, thereby being reflective of the intensity of the impression), and wherein the suitability ratio is calculated based on the intensity in the calculating step (See Hua, col. 16 lines 17-40; Ahmad, [0047] and [0051] which discloses displaying transitions based on beat frequencies to produce certain effects to adjust mood and feel and that the clips may be displayed according to a score. Hence, since the clips are based on tempo and beat frequencies which portray an intensity of a mood/impression, the transition type used is also based on the intensity

of the mood/impression since the transition used is selected to be appropriate for the particular beat frequencies that produce the effect and moods). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have modified the teachings of the storing in advance the information indicating the impression meant to be given to the audience by each transition clip and inserting a transition clip based on similarities as taught by Hua and Moore and to incorporate having an intensity of each impression and calculating a suitability ratio based on the intensity as taught by Ahmad for the mere benefit of being able to store the intensity of each impression as to better characterize a transition and media content present to the user such that it suits the users theme and mood.

Conclusion

4. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Contact

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ricky Chin whose telephone number is 571-270-3753. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30-6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew Koenig can be reached on 571-272-7296. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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